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Beijing pg7

Sports funding not balanced: Athlete

Celebrity pg14

Armstrong, Hudson reach end of the track

Housing development **Midnight blaze**

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO EDMONTON

Fire investigators yesterday inspect the site of a housing development fire near 58 street and 1a Avenue in the city's southeast. Four homes were destroyed and two others damaged in the blaze that came just over a year after an inferno destroyed 100 homes in southwest Edmonton and did nearly $20 million in property damage. **Story, page 2.**

Pet set afire, explodes in Peace River

JEFF CUMMINGS
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Mounties in Peace River are looking for answers and suspects after a pet exploded when it was set ablaze with gasoline along a park pathway next to a residential neighbourhood in that community Sunday morning.

Police say the exploded corpse could be a cat or a small dog.

"All indications lead us to believe that it was a cat; however, due to the state that was left behind, it is very difficult to determine whether or not it was indeed a small dog or cat," said Staff Sgt. John Haney with RCMP in Peace River, 488 northwest of Edmonton.

Police say several residents near the scene heard a small explosion shortly before 4 a.m. and one witness also noticed a ball of flames outside a window.

A gas can was found nearby. Investigators don't know if the pet was alive or dead when it was lit on fire.

"Certainly, I think people will find this troubling and disconcerting that this type of event took place," said Haney who adds this is the first time Peace River has ever seen an act of animal cruelty in his recent memory.

Tove Reece, of Edmonton-based Voice for Animals, was nearly brought to tears as she spoke about the incident.

"We've been wondering what is going on with so many of these animal cruelty cases recently in Alberta, and, honestly, I don't understand it," said Reece.

"This is so heinous that somebody can do this to a living, feeling, creature that is completely defenceless and vulnerable."

Reece says strict laws that do a better job are needed in Canada to send a message about animal cruelty.

Mounties say those responsible could have spilled gas on their clothes, or burned themselves. That could give a tipster a hint about someone's involvement in the crime, police said, asking anyone with information to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Baby born in restaurant bathroom

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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A downtown restaurant got an unexpected delivery during the lunch rush yesterday afternoon, when a pregnant 14-year-old girl sneaked in through an alley back door, and gave birth to a baby girl in a bathroom stall.

An ambulance was rushed to Teddy's Palace and Grill on Jasper Avenue at 113 Street at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

"Our crews responded to a 14-year-old girl who had given birth to a baby in the bathroom," said EMS spokeswoman Jill McCormick. "They were both transported to the Royal Alexandra Hospital."

Restaurant staff were tight-lipped about the incident.

"It happened in the blink of an eye with no further things for us to know," said a manager who refused to be identified.

"It could have happened anywhere. Someone came through the back door and it happened so fast."

Capital Health staff said both the mother and baby were in good condition yesterday afternoon.

World page 5

Israel's Olmert to step down

Food page 10

Celebrate the spud

Entertainment page 11

Spirit of the West marks 25 years

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Cuban baseball players believed missing from Worlds

Two of Cuba's best baseball players at the 2008 IBAF World Junior AAA tournament may have defected from the team, say tournament organizers. Starting pitcher Noel Arguelles and infielder Jose Iglesias were last seen with the team Sunday night at their team meal before going AWOL when the team hopped on the bus. METRO EDMONTON

Local

Driftpile Valley goes Astral

Have you ever wanted to party amongst the cosmos? From Sept. 5 to 7, Driftpile Valley will be transformed into the first-ever Astral Harvest Festival. After years of throwing show-stopping parties in Edmonton, the Techno Hippie Crew are taking their mind-blowing sound and a stellar lineup of performers to camp amongst the stars. Visit www.astralharvest.com for tickets. METRO EDMONTON

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Huppie tried to take own life: Report

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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Ryan Huppie hung his head in Court of Queen's Bench yesterday morning, when a witness testified that Huppie tried to hang himself with a noose made of bed sheets, shortly after he was arrested for assault and rape and thrown into the Edmonton Remand Centre.

"I used to hate people that did things like this, and now I'm one of them,' " said Huppie in a report read by Virginia Lee, a psychiatric nurse from the jail.

Court heard detailed descriptions of Huppie's confidential health care records and psychiatric assessments yesterday morning, including his repeated suicide attempts and behaviour that got him transferred to the jail's psychiatric unit.

"You'd have to be me to understand," Lee read from the assessment, adding that Huppie had begun to believe in the afterlife and wanted to come back as a white Siberian tiger.

Huppie stands accused of making a bet with a friend in February 2004 that he would rape and kill his next-door neighbour, a 33-year-old schoolteacher he had a crush on. After partying all night on a number of different drugs, Huppie allegedly climbed over her balcony and entered her suite, where he raped and repeatedly stabbed her, almost severing her fingers.

The report said, at one point, the 23-year-old decided to go on a hunger strike until his victim was released from the hospital.

"I would be better off dead so my victim can live a day better," Lee read from the report. "I can't live with myself for what I have done."

Behaviour

- The psychiatric report states Huppie ripped off a toenail and spent many evenings lying on the floor.

Car misses spikebelt, hits Mountie

INJURIES An RCMP officer was badly hurt yesterday while setting a spike belt on Queen Elizabeth II highway.

A car being chased by police swerved to avoid the belt and hit the Mountie.

"He has serious injuries but they're non life-threatening," said Const. Sabrina Grunow of Red Deer RCMP.

The officer was taken to hospital and is in stable condition. RCMP at first responded to a complaint near the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in Red Deer where a male was throwing rocks at cars and jumping into traffic on the QE II Highway. When an officer confronted him, he jumped into his car and a chase ensued southbound on the highway.

After the car struck the officer, the chase continued until it hit a second spike belt . Shortly after, it lost control and rolled. Two were arrested. METRO EDMONTON

Rainy days **Splash of colour**

BEN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

A woman walks along 102 Avenue next to Churchill Square in a downpour yesterday afternoon. Weather forecasters are calling for dryer, but still unsettled, conditions for the next couple of days.

Fire hits housing firm again

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Motorists driving along Anthony Henday Drive early yesterday were shocked to look over and see a new housing development engulfed in flames.

Shortly after midnight Wednesday, a blaze broke out in a duplex on 58 Street and 1A Avenue SW, in a subdivision full of half-completed homes being built by Landmark Homes, the same company hit by a devastating fire a year ago that destroyed an entire neighbourhood under construction.

Fire crews responded within four minutes of receiving calls from drivers witnessing the inferno, said Fire Services spokeswoman Nikki Booth.

"They found a house in the preliminary stages of collapse," she said.

One of the buildings containing two duplexes was destroyed, and another was damaged.

The exterior of the homes were completed, but there was little more than wood framing on the inside.

"It helps to create an intense and fast-moving fire," Booth said.

Nobody had yet purchased the home that burned to the ground.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and no injuries were reported.

On July 21, 2007 an arsonist torched a south-side subdivision in the MacEwan district developed by Landmark Homes. That inferno wiped out almost 100 homes, resulting in $20 million in damages.

BEN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Fire investigators inspect the site of a residential fire near 58 Street and 1A Avenue SW yesterday.

Drop in EX attendance finally gets revealed

NUMBERS Capital EX organizers caved to public pressure yesterday and released attendance figures, which were down slightly.

Northlands board chairman Jerry Bouma said the board wanted to be "cautious" of originally not releasing the figures because of the IRL Indy Series' practice to not release attendance information.

"Obviously the press, and others thought otherwise, so we thought, well, we have nothing to hide, IRL has no issue with it, so here we are," said Bouma.

There were 743,347 visitors to this week's Capital EX, down from 772,692 visitors in 2007. Bouma blamed the attendance dip on spikes in gas prices, not promoting the event's partnership with the Rexall Indy early enough, and economic uncertainty.

The board has already decided to make some changes to Edmonton's biggest summer festival by kicking off next year's Capital EX on a Friday instead of Thursday and then making it come to a close Sunday rather than a Saturday, Bouma told Metro.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO EDMONTON

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What's online today.

Watch MetroTube of the Day for a clip of Mr. T's ill-fated candy bar ad, and a video report on deep drilling and geothermal energy
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews
Play online Crosswords!

NBA's Raptors coming to town

Attention basketball fans: mark Oct. 21 on your calendar because the Toronto Raptors are coming to Alberta's capital city. The Raptors will return to Edmonton for the first time since Oct. 18, 1999 as they play the Denver Nuggets at Rexall Place. METRO EDMONTON

A green flavour added to festival

Plates made of sugarcane to reduce ecological impact

JEFF CUMMINGS
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There will be a touch of green added to the hundreds of tasty items at this weekend's Servus Heritage Festival.

The 62 pavilions representing over 80 cultures from around the world will begin using biodegradable products this year such as knives, forks, spoons, and plates to serve their mouthwatering dishes.

Festival goers, however, won't notice the changes until mid-Sunday as the pavilions will be allowed to use up their existing inventory of plastic cutlery.

"This is just a responsible thing to do and we have 30,000 to 40,000 people here and everyone uses a knife and fork and a spoon," Jack Little, executive director for the festival, said yesterday at the Hawrelak Park kickoff.

"It would be really neat if those knives, forks, and spoons disappeared in the landfill."

The cutlery will be made of aspen or birch, and the plates will be made out of sugarcane. Little said all of the items would turn into mulch within six to eight weeks.

Other new additions to the event include a performance by award-winning Canadian fiddler Natalie MacMaster Sunday at the Heritage Amphitheatre. Tickets for the 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows are available at Ticketmaster and TIX on the Square from $18 to $24.

The popular event kicks off Saturday at Hawrelak Park, ending at 7 p.m. Monday.

Admission to the festival is free, but donations to Edmonton's Food Bank are encouraged. Festival goers are encouraged to use public transit, or bike to the event, as there will be no public parking.

BEN LEMPHERY/METRO EDMONTON

Merve Demir, 13, princess of this years Heritage Festival, holds her younger sister, Hira 2, for a visit with Edmonton Food Bank Mascot, 'Fill-Up,' after a festival announcement at Hawrelak Park yesterday. The festival runs Saturday to Monday.

Robbery suspect targeted

ROBBERY Police are searching for a man who boldly walked into a downtown bank Tuesday, threatening to blow it to smithereens unless a teller handed over cash.

Suspect.

Just after 3 p.m. on Tuesday, a man walked into the Bank of Montreal at 101 Street and 102 Avenue carrying a black duffel bag.

He handed a teller a note, which read that the bag was full of explosives, and he'd blow the building to bits unless she handed him cash.

Though the bank robber received some money, he left the bag on the lobby floor before fleeing.

The building was evacuated, and the police bomb squad determined that there were no explosives in the bag.

The suspect has been identified as 28-year-old Yasudani Gordon Garanggai. METRO EDMONTON

Suspect arrested in Stelmach break in

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WARRANT Mounties in Two Hills have arrested a 34-year-old Saddle Lake man accused of breaking into the premier's farm near Andrew last week.

Police made the arrest last night.

Earlier, an arrest warrant was sworn out for Silver Lake's Steven Bernard for breaking and entering and theft.

Steven Bernard

Police said they expected Bernard would be taken before a justice of the peace for a bail hearing late last night or early this morning.

RCMP say they will release results of the hearing after it has been conducted.

Police say it was a typical break and enter to a rural residence.

The added that they don't believe the premier was targeted.

North ring road construction begins tomorrow

HEALTH Motorists looking to get around north Edmonton more smoothly will have to wail until the fall of 2011 as construction crews begin to work on the 21-kilometre stretch of the capital city's ring road Friday.

"Anthony Henday Drive Northwest will significantly improve traffic in Edmonton's north end when it open's in 2011," said Transportation Minister Luke Ouellette in a press release.

> **"(It) will significantly improve traffic in Edmonton's north end when it open's in 2011"**
> Luke Ouellette

The north leg of the highway would have been two-years later if it wasn't funded through a private-public partnership, said Ouellette.

The north leg of the ring road will be free-flow with no signal lights and will include eight interchanges, five flyovers, and two rail crossings, for a total of 27 bridge structures, said Alberta Transportation.

A private company has agreed to build the highway for $1.42 billion with the province advancing $500 million during construction, kicking off a 30 year payment plan to the company. METRO EDMONTON

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Economy over environment
Forty-five percent of Canadians said economic growth was most important while 44 percent chose the environment, in a new poll about quality of life. REUTERS

Canada

Border ID cards

New high-tech identification cards to help Saskatchewan people cross the United States border will be introduced next year, the provincial government says. Special driver's licences that can be used instead of passports at land border crossings will be introduced by June.

Canada getting new helicopters

NATO called on for more help

Canada is leasing up to eight Russian-built choppers to fly troops around southern Afghanistan and protect them from the threat of roadside bombs and ambushes, Defence Minister Peter MacKay says.

MacKay described the move yesterday as a stopgap measure until Canada can take delivery of American-built Chinook transport choppers.

As well, Canada is also leasing unmanned aerial vehicles used for reconnaissance over the Afghan battlefield until it gets possession of the drones it wants to purchase. He noted that Canada isn't going to add more troops.

"We're doing our bit. We're doing enough."
Peter MacKay

MacKay also demanded that other NATO nations step up with contributions of troops and equipment in southern Afghanistan, which he called a "flashpoint."

"We're doing our bit. We're doing enough," MacKay said.

Canada will increase its troop levels by 200 with the increase in new equipment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec City **Tory retreat**

MATHIEU BELANGER/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper walks off his airplane with his son Ben and his daughter Rachel as he arrives in Quebec City to attend the Conservative Party National Caucus Retreat at the convention centre in Levis yesterday.

B.C. bus escapes landslide

OLYMPICS A small tour bus narrowly missed being crushed in a massive landslide that buried a highway that is scheduled to play a key role in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Officials warned yesterday it could take at least five days to remove the tons of debris that fell on the highway south of the town of Squamish, British Columbia.

No other injuries were reported in the slide,

REUTERS

800 The highway is undergoing an upgrade costing nearly $800 million but officials said the slide won't effect the upgrade.

News in brief

POLITICS Ottawa's push for longer jail terms will not result in overcrowded prisons or ballooning corrections costs, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day says. Day said yesterday he's confident Canada can implement new mandatory jail terms for serious crimes and still avoid the U.S. example of having those new sentences cause a dramatic increase in the prison population in Canada.

SEAL HARVEST BAN A call by Nova Scotia's fisheries minister for an expansion of the province's annual grey seal hunt is being considered by federal Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn. Ron Chisholm encouraged Ottawa last week to press the European Parliament to reject a proposed ban on seal products and added he was pressing to expand the harvest.

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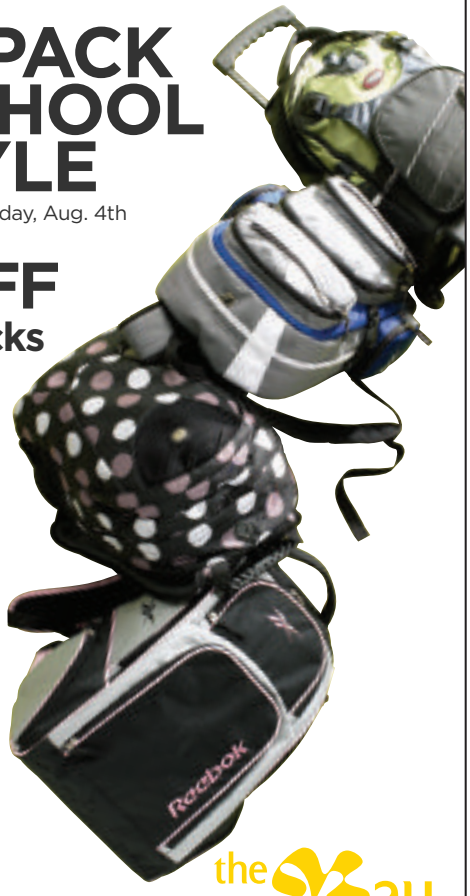

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Presidential campaigns spending already tops $50M

U.S. presidential candidates have spent some $50 million and aired more than 100,000 TV ads since the start of the general election campaign in early June, far outpacing the rate of the 2004 campaign, a University of Wisconsin Advertising Project report showed yesterday. REUTERS

World

Obama a celeb, not a leader: Republicans

Republican presidential candidate John McCain opened up a new line of attack on Democratic rival Barack Obama yesterday, labelling him a celebrity without the strength to bring change to Washington. McCain's campaign launched a new television advertisement to run in key battleground states called "Celeb" that uses images of U.S. celebrities Britney Spears and Paris Hilton and Obama's speech in Berlin last week to accuse Obama of being all talk and little action. REUTERS

Olmert set to step down as Israeli PM

Surprise announcement doesn't change peace goal: U.S.

Middle East peacemaking was in turmoil yesterday after Ehud Olmert, dogged by corruption probes, said he would resign as prime minister after his party picks a new leader in September.

Israeli politicians and analysts said Olmert's surprise announcement could force an early national election which opinion polls show could be won by rightist leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I have decided I won't run in the Kadima movement primaries, nor do I intend to intervene in the elections," Olmert said, referring to his ruling centrist party, from his official residence in Jerusalem.

"When a new (Kadima party) chairman is chosen, I will resign as prime minister to permit them to put together a new government swiftly and effectively," Olmert said.

Olmert, who could stay on as a caretaker prime minister for months while a successor struggles to cobble together a new coalition, vowed not to "ease up" on peacemaking "for as long as I remain in office."

The White House said its goal of getting Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to reach a peace deal this year was unchanged. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the negotiations would continue despite Olmert's announcement. REUTERS

9 wounded in West Bank violence

- Israeli troops wounded nine Palestinians in the occupied West Bank yesterday in a clash with stone-throwing protesters at the funeral of a 10-year-old boy killed a day earlier, Palestinian medics said. They said the Israelis had shot the protesters with rubber bullets. A 21-year-old Palestinian was hit in the head and doctors described him as brain dead.

Karadzic's family allowed to travel

TRIBUNAL Bosnia's top peace envoy Miroslav Lajcak lifted a travel ban for the family of Bosnian Serb former leader Radovan Karadzic, who was extradited to The Hague war crimes tribunal yesterday after 11 years on run.

The travel documents of Karadzic's wife, son, daughter and son-in-law were seized in January as part of an effort to choke off Karadzic's support network.

Lajcak originally refused to return the documents after Karadzic's arrest in Belgrade last week, fearing their visit could jeopardize his prosecution or the arrest of the remaining suspects.

But his office now said he "concluded that the reasons for the seizure of the travel documents ... no longer apply."

"They will be entitled to have their travel documents, including identity cards, returned to them. This decision shall have immediate effect. Restrictions against other persons remain in effect," Lajcak's office said in a statement. REUTERS

charges

- Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic are indicted for genocide over the 43-month siege of Sarajevo and the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims. Mladic and one other war crimes suspect are still at-large.

Internet TV grows in popularity

AMERICA A fifth of U.S. television viewers are putting down their remote controls and clicking on a mouse instead to watch primetime programs online — particularly professional women, according to a new survey.

It showed that 50 percent of people viewing TV on the Web are watching programs as they become available and "appear to be beginning to use the computer as a substitute for the television set," Integrated Media Measurement Inc. (IMMI), which conducted the poll, said. REUTERS

New York Luggage bug delays flights

REUTERS/JOSHUA LOTT

Customers wait in line after a computer glitch crippled the baggage handling system at the American Airlines' Terminal 8 at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport yesterday. AMR Corp's American Airlines said about 35 flights have been delayed from the airport after the software that controls the baggage sorting conveyor belt malfunctioned.

News in brief

HAITI Dozens of ex-soldiers emerged from a former military headquarters in northern Haiti yesterday in a peaceful end to a 24-hour standoff with police and UN peacekeepers, officials said. The former soldiers seized one-time army buildings in Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city, Tuesday to demand the reinstatement of the disbanded army and 14 years of back pay.

TURKEY Turkey's highest court yesterday rejected an attempt to shut down the governing AK Party, but imposed financial penalties on it for anti-secular activities, the court's chief judge said. The verdict ended months of political uncertainty which has hit Turkey's financial markets over fears the democratically elected party would be closed. REUTERS

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HP, Intel, Yahoo study ways to make web a utility

Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Yahoo said yesterday they are teaming up with academic researchers in Asia, Europe and the U.S. to create a network that lets researchers test web services that can reach billions of users at once. REUTERS

Business

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Feds to curb big spending

Although Canada is still on track to record a budget surplus this year, the government has no plans for big spending projects or major tax cuts in the near future, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"This is not a year for big new spending projects or big new tax reductions."
Jim Flaherty

Canada posted a budget deficit of $517 million for April and May as corporate and sales tax collection fell sharply. Ottawa has estimated a surplus in 2008-09 of $2.3 billion, down from the expected surplus of $10.2 billion for 2007-08.

"This is a time of economic slowdown," Flaherty told reporters. "I'm satisfied and I'm confident that we're on track in terms of our revenues and expenses over the year but this is not a year for big new spending projects or big new tax reductions."

The government cut the GST to 5 per cent as part of a tax-cutting package it says will help the economy cope with the U.S. housing crisis.

Canada has recorded 11 budget surpluses in a row. REUTERS

Bolivia Set for gas exploration

DAVID MERCADO/REUTERS

Bolivia's President Evo Morales unveils plans to start exploring for natural gas at a ceremony in Patacamaya yesterday. State-run energy company YPFB has acquired its first exploration rig from Venezuela. Bolivia has 47 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, one of the largest deposits in South America.

Bush signs U.S. housing rescue bill

ECONOMY U.S. President George W. Bush has signed into law a housing market rescue package that launches a $300 billion US initiative to refinance troubled mortgages, and boosts oversight of lending giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. REUTERS

WestJet's profit triples in Q2

AVIATION WestJet Airlines's second-quarter profit nearly tripled from last year when a one-time charge for a failed reservation system marred its results. Operating earnings, however, fell 10 per cent. REUTERS

Retail veteran to head Zellers

STORES Hudson's Bay Co. named retail veteran Mark Foote as chief executive of its Zellers discount chain yesterday. Foote was president and chief merchandising officer at Loblaw Cos. REUTERS

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Politics
International Olympic Committee officials cut a deal to let China block websites, a senior IOC official admitted yesterday. REUTERS

Beijing Games

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Funding flawed

Criteria too general, athlete Riker-Fox says

CAIT WILLS
for Metro Canada

When Joshua Riker-Fox got the news he would be representing Canada at the Olympic Games in Beijing, he was too busy scrambling to survive to celebrate.

"I've been relying on money from fundraising events in my hometown and private donations for the last six years," the world-ranked modern pentathlete says, adding there is a glaring difference in funding between winter and summer Olympic sports.

In order for an athlete to receive federal government funding, or carding from Sport Canada, there is an analysis of "the technical needs of the sport, as measured by the number of athletes required to field a team," and the "results of the Olympics ... and World Championships in the last four-year period."

Riker-Fox contends the criteria in place are too general and the funding process for athletes needs to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

"There is a major flaw in the formula used to analyze carding," he said. "They have two different tools: They look at historical performance at the Olympics, but — especially in the case of the modern pentathlon — there isn't enough data for analysis. There were no women in this field before 2000 at the Olympics, and Canadian men haven't qualified since 1992."

And, because the modern pentathlon involves highly specialized skills, Riker-Fox says participation in the sport is lower than others, which he says makes a numerical analysis of participants unfair.

"They look at our sport and say, 'Josh, we can't give you any money because there isn't historical representation.' But I've made contributions; I've medalled at the Pan Am Games," he said. "This is all motivated by government bureaucracy," and, he says, is not an effective way to show summer sport athletes that the federal government supports their endeavours.

Riker-Fox also says the Canadian Olympic Committee has been concentrating on its own mandate to the detriment of summer sport athletes. The COC is responsible for the Own The Podium program, which is concentrating on funding athletes who will participate in the 2010 Winter Games.

"Is there an imbalance? Yes. Is it being corrected? Yes."
Steve Keogh

"Is there an imbalance? Yes. It is being corrected? Yes," Steve Keogh, director of communications for the COC, said about the differences in funding between the Road To Excellence Program, which funds summer sports athletes, and the Own The Podium Program.

In response to the assertion that the Road To Excellence Program has seen less federal funding, Alex Baumann, executive director of that program, conceded that "that certainly has been the case in the past," although the government has agreed to supply the program with $8 million this year and $16 million next year, as well as an annual influx of $24 million in perpetuity.

Another way the COC says it is rectifying any financial disparity is the new Athletes Excellence Fund, which Keogh says could benefit all athletes and is based solely on individual performance. Through this fund, medal winners will be able earn $20,000 for a gold medal, $15,000 for a silver and $10,000 for a bronze.

"We hope to pay out a lot of money," said Keogh.

Facts

NAME: Joshua Riker-Fox
BIRTHDATE: Sept. 6, 1983
RESIDENCE: Delacour, Alta.
SPORT: Modern Pentathlon

CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PHOTO

Modern pentathlete Joshua Riker-Fox is competing on Aug. 21.

While Riker-Fox has every intention of medalling during his event on Aug. 21, he says the continuing battle for funding has left lingering doubts about the entire Olympic funding process.

"We have been disregarded by them for so long," he said. "They don't understand what it means to put on a Canadian jersey and represent your country."

FIFA orders clubs to release players

SOCCER World soccer's governing body FIFA has told clubs they must release any players aged under 23 selected for the Olympics after rejecting a protest by three European teams.

In a statement issued yesterday, FIFA said Players' Status Committee member Slim Aloulou had ruled as a single judge that the release of players was mandatory for all clubs.

REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

SAY WHAT? What many Chinese consider idle chit-chat has now become the latest area of censure in Beijing as it prepares for an influx of Olympic visitors. Pick up tomorrow's Metro for more.

7 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Sports in brief

DOPING China has stood by the life ban imposed on swimmer Ouyang Kunpeng for doping, saying athletes must take responsibility for the food and medicine they consume.

ATHLETICS Former world triple jump champion Charles Friedek lost his legal bid for a place on Germany's Olympic team yesterday, the German Athletics Federation said.

POLLUTION China is mulling emergency plans to keep Olympic skies clear and may push more cars off the road in Beijing and nearby cities if wind or rain do not disperse smog build-ups, government advisers said yesterday. REUTERS

Saudi Arabia's team excludes women

When Saudi Arabia's Olympic team appears in Beijing, it will be conspicuous for the absence of women. Rashed al-Heraiwel, head of the Saudi delegation, confirmed no women would be in the lineup, apparently due to opposition to women's participation in sport.

Heraiwel said now was not the time for the Saudi authorities to consider allowing women into sport.

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," he said, suggesting that issue had not been discussed due to the de-facto ban.

The Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee website says the Olympic team will participate in five sports — athletics, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and equestrian events — but does not say how many athletes will attend.

A Saudi opposition activist called for a strong response. "Bar countries that ban women athletes," Ali al-Ahmad urged Olympic sports authorities in May.

REUTERS

Research Study for Type 2 Diabetes Controlled Through Diet and Exercise Participants Needed

What is the goal of the study?
The goal of the study is to test the safety of a new oral medication to treat diabetes.

Who can enter the study?
Persons with type 2 diabetes who: are currently managing their diabetes through diet and exercise; are between the ages of 31-75 years; and have never received insulin therapy. Additional inclusion and exclusion criteria will be reviewed at time of screening.

What are the study participants asked to do?
Participants will spend a total of seven nights in the University of Alberta Hospital and make six visits to the research unit. Participants will be asked to take a new oral medication. Participants will undergo several monitoring tests (vital signs, ECG, blood and urine sampling).

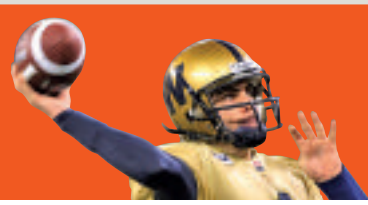
Are participants compensated?
Participants will be compensated at a rate of $20/hour for a maximum of 244 hours for their involvement in the study.

Who can I contact for more information?
You may call 780-407-2965 or email kate.bailey@capitalhealth.ca to learn more about the study.

Leclaire signs three-year deal with Jackets

The Columbus Blue Jackets have re-signed goaltender Pascal Leclaire to a three-year contract. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. Leclaire is coming off his best NHL season, having posted a 24-17-6 record in 54 games with Columbus in 2007-08. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Dinwiddie wins weekly award

Winnipeg quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie, left, earned the CFL's offensive player of the week. He was joined in Week 5 honours, announced yesterday, by Edmonton defensive lineman Montez Murphy and B.C. Lions kick returner Ian Smart and wideout Paris Jackson. Dinwiddie completed 24 of 39 passes for a league-high 450 yards, and threw the game-winning touchdown to lead the Blue Bombers over the Calgary Stampeders.

SPORTS EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian hurler solid in first start

MLB When his start ended, with one out in the sixth inning, Vancouver-native Scott Richmond finally allowed himself the luxury of soaking it all in.

"Usually, I had the head down," the 28-year-old Blue Jay debutant said. "But that was my moment to look around."

Richmond

As the starting pitcher did so, the crowd rose to its feet to cheer him off. Richmond shyly saluted them back.

Richmond surrendered three runs and took the loss in a 3-2 defeat against the Tampa Bay Rays.

For now, the unlikely 28-year-old rookie is sticking with the Jays.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dubois pulls off an upset

Canadian knocks off 13th seed to advance to the Rogers Cup third round

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Stephanie Dubois of Canada celebrates her win over No. 13 seed Maria Kirilenko of Russia during Day 3 of the Rogers Cup in Montreal yesterday. Dubois defeated Kirilenko 6-2, 2-6,7-6(4).

World No. 1 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia opened her hard-court campaign with a laboured 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win over Czech teenager Petra Kvitova to wobble into the third round of the Rogers Cup in Montreal yesterday.

Playing her first event since a shock third round exit at Wimbledon, the French Open champion arrived in Montreal with her No. 1 ranking under threat from compatriot Jelena Jankovic.

Ivanovic's first competitive match in nearly a month showed predictable signs of rust. She served six break points in her opening two service games none of which Kvitova was able to convert.

Local hope Stephanie Dubois and 15-year-old Portuguese qualifier Michelle Larcher de Brito pulled off a pair of second-round shocks by knocking out seeded opponents.

Dubois, who grew up in nearby Laval, had the support of raucous crowd at Jarry tennis centre as she rallied for a 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 win over 13th seed Maria Kirilenko of Russia.

Brito defeated 15th seed Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-3, 0-6, 6-3.

In the late game another Canadian hopeful, Aleksandra Wozniak, fell to world No. 2 Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 6-0, 6-4. Jankovic will face another hometown favourite, as she is slated to face Dubois in the third round. REUTERS

Results

- **Stephanie Dubois (Canada)** beat No. 13 Maria Kirilenko (Russia) 6-2, 2-6, 7-6(4)
- No. 1 Ana Ivanovic (Serbia) beat Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3
- No. 2 Jelena Jankovic (Serbia) beat **Aleksandra Wozniak (Canada)** 6-0, 6-4
- No. 3 Maria Sharapova (Russia) beat Marta Domachowka (Poland) 7-5, 5-7, 6-2
- No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze (Russia) beat Jill Craybas (U.S.) 6-2, 7-5
- No. 7 Dinara Safina (Russia) beat Anastasia Rodionova (Russia) 6-2, 6-4
- No. 9 Patty Schnyder (Switzerland) beat Monica Niculescu (Romania) 6-1, 7-5

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roots 73
Quality • Integrity • Value

Yankees add Pudge to the mix

MLB The day that Jorge Posada's season officially ended, the New York Yankees made a deal for his replacement behind the plate. New York dealt relief pitcher Kyle Farnsworth to the Detroit Tigers yesterday in exchange for 14-time All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez.

"He's still an everyday guy, and he's a significant upgrade," said Yankees general manager Brian Cashman. "He's having a good year, and we're excited to think that we've moved forward with something that was a need."

Posada underwent season-ending shoulder surgery yesterday, a procedure that will sideline him for four-to-six months. Jose Molina had replaced Posada in the meantime, but now the Yankees have a possible Hall of Famer to plug in behind the plate.

Rodriguez

"It was hard, because Kyle was a big part of our bullpen and he loved being here, but we felt that Pudge will really help our club," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi.

Rodriguez, 36, is a .302 career hitter in 18 seasons. This season with the Tigers he was batting .295 with five homers and 32 RBI in 82 games. He is the all-time major league leader with 13 Gold Glove Awards at catcher. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	63	44	.589	-
Boston	61	48	.560	3
N.Y. Yankees	59	48	.551	4
Toronto	54	54	.500	9½
Baltimore	51	56	.477	12

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	60	46	.566	-
Minnesota	59	48	.551	1½
Detroit	54	52	.509	6
Kansas City	50	59	.459	11½
Cleveland	46	59	.438	13½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	67	40	.626	-
Texas	56	52	.519	11½
Oakland	53	54	.495	14
Seattle	40	67	.374	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	58	49	.542	—
N.Y. Mets	58	50	.537	½
Florida	57	51	.528	1½
Atlanta	49	58	.458	9
Washington	38	69	.355	20

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	64	44	.593	-
Milwaukee	60	48	.556	4
St. Louis	61	49	.555	4
Cincinnati	51	58	.468	13½
Houston	50	57	.467	13½
Pittsburgh	50	58	.463	14

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	54	52	.509	—
L.A. Dodgers	53	53	.500	1
Colorado	49	60	.450	6½
San Francisco	44	62	.415	10
San Diego	42	66	.389	13

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 2
Chicago White Sox 8 Minnesota 3
Kansas City 4 Oakland 3 (10 ings)
L.A. Angels 9 Boston 2
N.Y. Yankees 13 Baltimore 3
Texas 4 Seattle 3
Detroit at Cleveland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 7 Milwaukee 2
Cincinnati 9 Houston 5
Colorado 7 Pittsburgh 4
Florida 7 N.Y. Mets 5
Philadelphia 8 Washington 5
St. Louis 7 Atlanta 2
Arizona at San Diego
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit at Cleveland, 10:05
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 5:05
Seattle at Texas, 6:05
Chicago W. Sox at Minnesota, 6:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 12:05
Colorado at Florida, 5:10
St. Louis at Atlanta, 5:10
Philadelphia at Washington, 5:10
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 8:103

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	2	3	0	4
Toronto	2	3	0	4
Winnipeg	1	4	0	2
Hamilton	1	4	0	2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	GB
Saskatchewan	5	0	0	10
Calgary	3	2	0	6
EDMONTON	**3**	**2**	**0**	**6**
B.C.	3	2	0	6

WEEK 6

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Hamilton at Montreal, 5
B.C. at **EDMONTON**, 8

TOMORROW'S GAME

Winnipeg at Toronto, 5

SATURDAY'S GAME

Saskatchewan at Calgary, 6

BASEBALL

GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE EDMONTON CRACKER CATS:

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

Game 1 — **EDMONTON** at Long Beach
Game 2 —**EDMONTON** at Long Beach

Sports in brief

MLB The Detroit Red Wings locked up another piece of their Stanley Cup-winning puzzle yesterday, signing forward Valtteri Filppula to a five-year contract. The left-handed Finn registered 19 goals and 36 points in 78 regular-season games for Detroit.

NBA Restricted free agent Luol Deng has agreed to a long-term contract with the Bulls that will keep the forward in Chicago for years to come. According to a Chicago Sun-Times story yesterday, the deal is for six years and $71 million US.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

LOTTERIES

Lotto 6/49 3, 10, 21, 26, 38 & 43. Bonus 48.
Results not official

House & Home

IKEA alert

For some, the highlight of mid-summer is the August long weekend. For others, it's the annual IKEA catalogue. To get your mitts on a copy of it, visit *ikea.ca*.

Pest control

Keeping mosquitoes at bay

ArrestingDesign

Jeffrey Fisher & Tammy Schnurr

busted@arrestingdesign.com

If you are attacked by mosquitoes every time you step into your backyard, take heart. You can still enjoy it, but there are a few things you can do to make mosquito pests feel unwelcome — after all, not only are they annoying, they also carry disease.

Eco-friendly bug spray or bug zappers can help temporarily, but neither will help you to take back your yard over the long term. What you really want to know is a little about mosquito life cycles — because you want to learn how NOT to make your backyard an inviting place for mosquitoes to raise their babies!

First of all, mosquito young are larvae that live in water and feed on micro-organisms and organic matter — so any standing water left around the house for even a few days is a standing invitation for mosquitoes to get in a family way. Keep in mind that even a few days of standing water can produce a bumper crop of mosquitoes!

Eliminate all standing water, such as boggy eavestroughs, standing water in saucers under pots, water in cans or plastic containers, garbage cans, wheelbarrows, barrels and so on.

If you've got old tires anywhere, get rid of them to avoid that dreaded hillbilly look — but also because they serve as lovely places for mosquitoes to breed. Put away, invert, cover or punch drainage holes in all containers that collect water.

Better yet, get rid of them because they probably don't look great in your backyard anyway.

If you've got hollow stumps or cavities in trees that collect water, try to eliminate these as well by filling the holes or digging out the stumps.

If you've got a birdbath, lovely as it may be, it can also produce mosquitoes. To prevent this, you need to change the water every two to three days to wash out the larvae before they hatch.

A small bubbling fountain in a birdbath also serves to discourage mosquitoes because they prefer stagnant water.

If you should be fortunate enough to have an ornamental water garden on your property, investigate the idea of stocking the pool with mosquito-eating fish, such as goldfish, minnows or guppies

Bubbling fountains will also help to prevent the stagnant water that mosquitoes love.

As always, do not overwater your yard — any puddles or damp spots could be a lovely nursery for mosquito larvae! Leaky faucets and spouts can also produce a puddle, so fix these as well.

Ditto for pet water containers — make sure they are not left standing outside after Poochie has retired for the evening.

For the same reason, drain kiddie pools daily or if you have a larger aboveground pool, cover it when not in use. If you have an in-ground swimming pool or a hot tub, keep it chlorinated or treated and filtered. When not in use for extended periods, cover tightly. After you do your best to discourage mosquitoes from living in your backyard, you must still take precautions. Avoid times of day when mosquitoes are most numerous.

Certain species of mosquitoes are attracted to light, so keep outside lighting to a minimum near entry doors; keep those doors screened or close them at sunset.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network.

You can't always believe what you see on TV

OrganizedZone

Brenda Borenstein

metro@organizedzone.com

Home makeover television shows are all the rage now. So many people watch them looking for ideas, inspiration and, of course, shock value. I find them very entertaining especially the "how dirty is your house?" kind of show. I think, however, there should be a warning label on the bottom of the screen saying, "Danger, don't try at home without the supervision of a professional." I say this because I have seen many people start projects then put them on the back burner due to complications and disasters. I am certain it looked easy on TV.

Home and garden types of shows are a lot of fun and have to be watched in a realist way. Know that much of the finished product that you see has taken longer than the alleged time and budget indicated. So don't feel bad if you attempt to undertake an inspiring project "as seen on TV" and it costs more in time and money than anticipated. The intentions are always good; however, don't be too proud to call in a professional to bail you out if you are stuck.

Recently, I watched one that went something like this … while you were out we threw everything out, brought in furniture and voila, a new lovely room. Ahh!! In 30 minutes, less commercials, it was miraculously finished.

Clutter is something that requires personal attention, not a 15-minute TV segment.

After the show, when the cameras stop rolling and the fancy designers parted, so did the furniture.

Behind the scenes, I imagine items that hadn't been dealt with just tossed in the garage for the owner to deal with later. Or even worse, much of the items just tossed out to the trash.

With real production budget concerns, more than likely the furniture was on loan, not purchased.

Yikes!

After the show, when the cameras stop rolling and the fancy designers parted, so did the furniture. I assume the homeowner's guest would be left with an empty room and a garage full of junk.

That's showbiz baby!

Who volunteers for these shows anyway? They must be thrill or torture seekers.

I laugh to myself trying to imagine the possibility of any of my disorganized clients volunteering for a mess makeover on TV, even if it was free. The shame and embarrassment would be too much to bare for them.

Clutter and decorating your home is a personal matter and it has to be dealt with in an organized and sensitive way.

Until next time, happy organizing.

Please feel free to send me your thoughts on home decorating and organizing shows at metro@organizedzone.com.

Brenda Borenstein is your professional organizing guru. Her column appears every second Thursday. For more, visit organizedzone.com.

Good for you
Fat-free, potatoes provide Vitamins C and B6, magnesium, thiamine, folic acid and potassium. A 6 oz (170 g) potato has only 120 calories. The colourful varieties being developed, such as blue-fleshed, have increased antioxidant content. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Look for firm and blemish free (no eyes) potatoes. A green tinge caused by prolonged light exposure indicates the presence of solanine, which can be toxic if eaten in quantity."

-Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Celebrating the spud

Versatile, inexpensive and nutritious, the ever so humble potato is finally getting its 15 minutes of fame. The United Nations General Assembly has named 2008 the International Year of the Potato in recognition of the tuber's 5,000 years on the planet and the fact that it can grow in poor soil and keep many hungry people alive. While grocery stores tend to market potatoes by colour or by cooking method, you'll find novelty spuds such as fingerlings, mini potatoes, red skinned yellow-fleshed potatoes and blue potatoes in local farmers' market and specialty greengrocers. The season for many of these potatoes is rather short, so enjoy these specialties while you can.

Creamy Potato and Dill Salad

If time permits, make salad the day before as flavour improves overnight. The buttermilk provides a tangy flavour and a creamy consistency. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 lb (1 kg) small red or white potatoes, unpeeled
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) white wine vinegar

Dressing:
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) light mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) buttermilk or plain low fat yogurt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh dill

METHOD:
Scrub potatoes and cover with cold water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender but not soft, about 15 minutes. Drain in colander until cool enough to handle.

Cut in halves or quarters, depending on size. Place in large bowl and sprinkle with vinegar. Let stand a few minutes until vinegar is absorbed.

Dressing: Place mustard and garlic in small bowl. Gradually whisk in mayonnaise to blend, then buttermilk, salt and pepper. Stir in dill. Pour over potatoes and stir gently to mix. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

The United Nations General Assembly has named 2008 the International Year of the Potato.

Tips:
- Scrub rather than peel potatoes. The skin adds fibre, colour and texture but also prevents the potatoes from getting too watery. For even cooking, pick similar sized potatoes.
- Leftover buttermilk? Measure amounts you would use in a recipe in airtight containers, leaving 1/2-inch (1 cm) headspace, label and freeze. When thawed, stir well and use in a baking recipe.
- Waxy or boiling potatoes: Long white, round red or round white with a thin skin, these potatoes are lower in starch and higher in moisture. They keep their shape, making them good for boiling, steaming, roasting, scalloped or gratin dishes.
- Floury or baking potatoes: Such as Russet or Idaho, have a long shape and thicker skin. High in starch and low in moisture, these are a good choice for baking or mashing.
- All-purpose potatoes: Such as the yellow-fleshed Yukon Gold have an even balance of starch and water, making it a good all-rounder.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Marty's world-famous café creations

Have you tasted the best buttertart in the world? Well, unless you have been to Marty's World Famous Café in Muskoka, Ont., you haven't tasted anything that comes even close — the Lonely Planet series of guidebooks says so. Now in Marty's World Famous Cookbook, Marty Curtis is finally giving away the secret recipe for this delectable tart and a wide array of recipes for other amazing fare you can also find at his legendary café. Whitecap Books gave Metro this recipe for these fruity, moist muffins:

Lemon, Blueberry, and Cream Cheese Muffins

There's often a lineup for these one-of-a-kind muffins. They're easy to make, too. You can substitute blueberries for equal amounts of raspberries, strawberries, or blackberries for an entirely new muffin experience.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
- 3 tsp baking powder
- one 250 g package low-fat cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cups vegetable oil
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1–2 Tbsp lemon rind
- 1 cup frozen blueberries

Glaze:
- 1 Tbsp lemon rind
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups icing sugar

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 365°F. Grease a 6-large-cup muffin pan or Marty's Buttertart Pan with oil.

For the muffins, in a bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and baking powder.

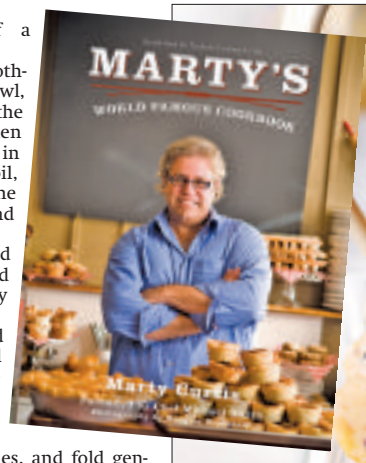
Warm a knife in hot water, cut the cream cheese into julienne strips, and then cross-cut into pea-size bits. Warm the knife regularly for smooth cuts. Add cream cheese to the dry ingredients. Break up the bits by stirring with the head of a whisk.

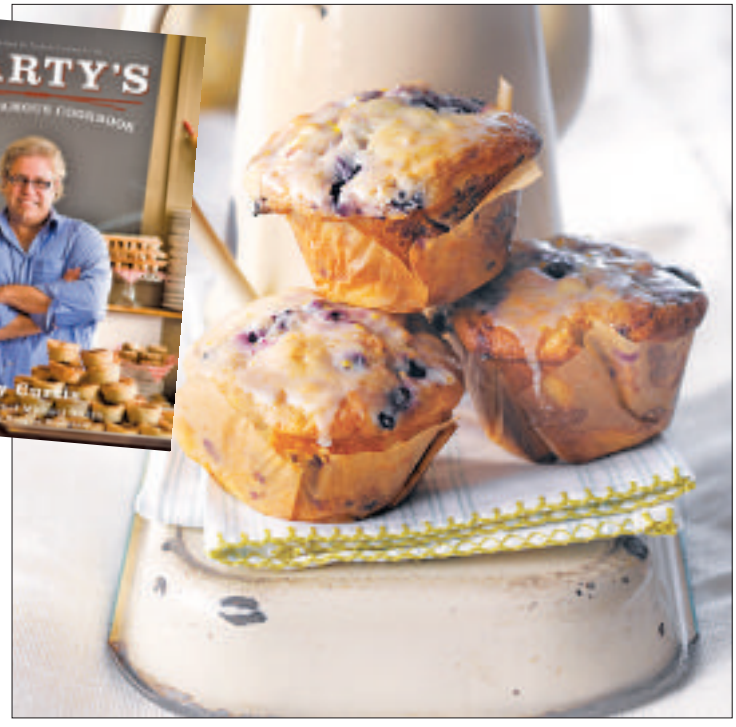
In another bowl, whisk the eggs, then whisk in the oil, then the milk and lemon rind and juice. Add to the dry ingredients and fold until just combined.

Add the blueberries, and fold gently.

Fill the prepared pans with batter to jut under the top line. Bake for 30–35 minutes.

Cool in the pan for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, make the glaze by combining the lemon rind and juice with the icing sugar. Add a touch of hot water if the glaze needs to be thinner. Brush over the muffins.





There's often a lineup in Marty's World Famous Café for these one-of-a-kind muffins.

Langdon eyes Revolver gig
Actress Liv Tyler's estranged husband Royston Langdon is auditioning in Los Angeles to be Velvet Revolver's lead singer. The band's former front man, Scott Weiland, left the group in April. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

Rogen row

Comedy star Seth Rogen was reportedly thrown out of a party for his own movie, Pineapple Express, after fellow revellers accused him of smoking marijuana. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Geoffrey Kelly, from left, Vince R. Ditrich, John Mann, Hugh McMillan and Tobin Frank are Spirit of the West.

Still got the Spirit

Spirit of the West celebrates 25th anniversary with CD, tour

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

In a shoebox, in a garage, somewhere in Vancouver — there might be a hit. Maybe a drinking anthem like Home For a Rest, maybe a singalong classic like And if Venice is Sinking.

John Mann and Geoffrey Kelly, the songwriting team and co-founders of Celtic/pop/rockers Spirit of the West, are always sharing ideas, recording stuff.

"We have a lot of songs on tape that have absolutely no lyrics, with one of us just scatting the melody lines. Just reams of these, mini discs everywhere," said Mann, who keeps some in a shoebox in his garage.

"At some point, we're going to have to go through them, because I know we have some really good ideas there. But we just keep moving on, and moving on."

For 25 years. To celebrate, the five-piece band is touring and has released a double-CD retrospective: Spirituality 1983-2008: The Consummate Compendium. The 32 songs — including two new ones — were picked by the band.

"There's certain songs we couldn't leave out, like And if Venice Is Sinking, Save This House and Home for a Rest," said Mann.

"But there are also songs on the album we hadn't been playing much, that we really loved and felt were good songs. They were more for ourselves, really, than for the fans."

Mann mentions Not Just a Train, recorded for the film My American Cousin, and the dark Pulling Lame: "There was a time when we were playing more electric, heavier songs, and we wanted that to be reflected, too. Because that was always a fun way to get our Ya-Ya's out."

Not that Spirit of the West is known for keeping its Ya-Ya's in. The band has always been about the crammed club, the flowing drinks and the immediacy of the performance.

"When we're playing live, we definitely pour our hearts into it," said Mann.

"We're proud of what we do as a live band. We feel like we really put on a show and we work hard when we're out there. And we have fun — we're such great pals."

Still — a quarter of a century later, Mann and Kelly keep moving on.

"We get together at each other's house and make each other coffee, and see what we have," said Mann. "It's a rare time that we come up with nothing.

"We'll always come up with something."

Go West

- **Who:** Spirit of the West
- **What:** To celebrate their 25th anniversary, the band is touring and has released a two-CD retrospective. Spirituality 1983-2008: The Consummate Compendium contains 32 songs.

Hindu leaders happy Guru not getting much love

MOVIES Hindu leaders have claimed victory in their campaign against Mike Myers' film The Love Guru after the movie failed to wow cinema audiences across America, imdb.com reports.

Religious leaders called the movie "morally offensive" to Hinduism and urged followers of the religion to boycott the picture.

The Love Guru debuted at No. 4 at the U.S. box office on its June release, taking just $14 million US in its opening weekend.

The film has taken a gross total of just $31 million in the U.S. in the five weeks since its June 20 release. Anne Hathaway's spy comedy Get Smart was released the same weekend and has so far taken a gross total of $124 million for the same period.

U.S. Hindu scholar Rajan Zed is convinced the boycott has contributed to the movie's box-office slump: "The boycott call of Hindus against The Love Guru for lampooning Hinduism has been very effective."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stone faces suit over quake

Sharon Stone is facing a $1-billion US lawsuit from the victims of China's recent earthquake after she controversially blamed the disaster on "karma," imdb.com reports

The actress provoked outrage with her comments in May, linking the death of more than 67,000 victims of the natural disaster to China's treatment of Tibetans.

Stone apologized, but a New York lawyer has rallied more than 1,000 survivors and victims' relatives to serve Stone with legal documents, demanding a further apology and threatening to sue.

Attorney Ming Hai says: "For the families who have lost their loved ones or lost limbs or suffered severe injuries, your … statement and act has caused extreme emotional distress."

> **"Your … statement and act has caused extreme emotional distress."**
> Attorney Ming Hai

Following her remark, officials in China threatened to ban the release of Stone's films in the country and the actress was dropped by French fashion house Christian Dior as the spokesmodel for its Chinese advertising campaigns.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Greek star Foster charged in DUI case

LEGAL Actor Scott Michael Foster has been charged with two misdemeanours for driving under the influence following his arrest last week, imdb.com reports.

The of the comedy-drama Greek was taken into police custody in Hollywood last Monday after cops noticed he was intoxicated during a routine traffic stop. He is due in court to face the charges on Aug. 11.

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50 Cent buys right to ex's life story

50 Cent has bought up the rights to his ex-girlfriend Shaniqua Tompkins life story so she can never pen a book about her romance with the rapper. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

CDReviews

music@metronews.ca

Nine Inch Nails

Album: The Slip
Label: The Null Corporation
Release date: July 22
Rating:

SO THIS IS what being liberated from record-label constraints sounds like. And no matter the choice of format — free digital download (out since May 5), a CD with or without the limited-edition DVD set or even vinyl (due Aug. 5) — the end result will be the same: Trent Reznor capably channels his tortured soul through aggressive industrial power-pop or the occasional dark ambient instrumental trip. All accessible and ear pleasing to boot. Reznor calls this a "thank you" to his fans. Um, you're welcome. **Ian Nathanson**

Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis

Album: Two Men With The Blues
Label: Blue Note/EMI
Release date: July 8
Rating:

WILLIE'S BEEN DOING some strange stuff in recent years and not all of it has worked. I mean, did we really need a Willie Nelson reggae album? But this collaboration with jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis makes sense. Willie's been performing standards like Georgia On My Mind, Night Life and Stardust all his life. So has Wynton. Both are masters of phrasing and they lay it down easily on this relaxed live set. Wynton's performance shows respect, never interfering with Willie's understated vocals. There's some rough edges, but who cares? They're having way too much fun. **Graham Rockingham**

Lalah Hathaway

Album: Self Portrait
Label: Stax
Release date: July 29
Rating:

THIS IS THE kind of old-school R&B album a lot of A-list pop singers would like to make but fail miserably at. It requires more than overdone beats and superfluous note-bending. Hathaway pours fiery soul onto cool jazz for an album that will play perfectly when you bring your date home for that good-night cocktail and slow-dance to the bedroom. Tasty stuff, produced with style and performed with restrained precision just like they used to in the '70s. Caution: Don't let it put you to sleep. **Graham Rockingham**

Alice Cooper

Album: Along Came A Spider
Label: SPV/Fusion 3
Release date: July 29
Rating:

IT'S BEST TO ignore the silly serial killer theatrics on this album. Alice Cooper lost his ability to shock years ago. It now seems so ... routine. (What's truly scary is that Alice spends his down time golfing with Sen. John McCain). Put all that aside and what you're left with is some superb, if formulaic, riff rock. Alice employs two great guitarists in his band — Keri Keli and Jason Hook — who are joined by Slash for some old school pyrotechnics on the track Vengeance Is Mine. These new tracks will play well in concert. **Graham Rockingham**

Primal Scream

Album: Beautiful Future
Label: Atlantic/Warner
Release date: July 22
Rating:

THERE'S A LOT you can say about Primal Scream — after all they've been around for 20 years — but restless probably describes this British band best. Over the years the group has tackled dance, psychedelia, '70s rock and now, straight-up pop music. Working with Bjorn Yttling of Peter, Bjorn and John fame, the group has created a number of catchy hooks, but there's not enough meat to sustain an entire album. Despite the wildly infectious title track, they end up sounding like every other U.K. pop act out there. **Bryan Borzykowski**

CSNY

Album: Deja Vu Live
Label: Reprise/Warner
Release date: July 22
Rating:

LAST YEAR'S CSNY tour was a very good idea. Releasing a live CD from it wasn't. The tour was one of those 'You had to be there' experiences. On this record, much of Neil Young's earnest "impeach the president/stop the war" message sounds merely sophomoric. David Crosby and Graham Nash are in fine singing form, but Stephen Stills' voice on Wooden Ships is painful. If you want to hear what these four were capable of live get a hold of 1974's Four Way Street and take in the guitar jam on Carry On. **Graham Rockingham**

Alice Cooper is back with a new album, Along Came A Spider.

GETTY IMAGES

CCR albums to be reissued

Fogerty

MUSIC The first six albums of California rock band Creedence Clearwater Revival are being reissued on September 30 with bonus tracks and new liner notes, Concord Music Group said this week.

The reissued albums, which have been digitally remastered and will be presented in DigiPaks, are: Creedence Clearwater Revival, Bayou Country, Green River, Willy & the Poor Boys, Cosmo's Factory and Pendulum, all originally released from 1968 to 1970.

The announcement comes about three years after Creedence singer/songwriter John Fogerty resigned as a solo artist with Concord's Fantasy Records label, for which Creedence recorded in the late '60s and early '70s. **REUTERS**

brief

Hollywood takes back seat in Venice

MOVIES Big Hollywood studios will take a back seat at this year's Venice film festival, with the competition lineup highlighting independent U.S. cinema, Italian productions and Japanese animation movies.

Festival director Marco Mueller said the lighter Hollywood presence was partly due to disruptions caused by a 14-week writers' strike that ended in February, meaning the release of some films had to be postponed.

"Some of the films which would have normally been ready in time for Venice now won't be released until December or later," Mueller said. Last year, U.S. and British films dominated, with nearly half of the films in the main competition. **REUTERS**

ED	C		B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/31/08 primetime	2	CFRN	239	318	eTalk	Jeopardy!	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		So You Think You Can Dance		News (N)
	3	KHQ	-	370	News (N)	Raymond	Jeopardy!	Wheel-Fortune	Last Comic Standing Finalists are revealed. (N)				Fear Itself (N)
	4	CBXT	-	307	Coronation St.	Who Do-Think	jPod (HDTV) (DVS)		The Girls of Summer (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	-	372	News (N)	Hollywood	Friends	Scrubs	Big Brother 10		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Flashpoint (N)
	7	CKEM	241	347	Friends	Friends	Hopkins (HDTV) (N)		Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Biography "Hugh Laurie"		Your City
	8	CITV	240	339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Swingtown		Last Comic Standing Finalists are revealed. (N)				News Hour
	12	CBXFT	119	705	Squelettes	La Mosquée	Perdus (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	-	371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy		Hopkins
	16	KAYU	-	373	'70s Show	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		So You Think You Can Dance		News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	-	'70s Show	E! News	Final 24 "JFK Jr"		To Be Announced		Fear Itself (PA) (N)		News (N)
	22	KSPS	-	374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Pioneers of Television		Sherlock Holmes Mysteries		Globe Trekker (DVS)		Soundstage (N)
	24	WTVS	-	364	Ask This Old	Michigan	Lest They Be Forgotten		Red Green	Time Goes By	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
news	15	CBCN	502	-	CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	21	TWN	505	398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500	500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501	391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504	508	Taking Stock		Market Call		Business News		Market Call	Strictly Legal	Taking Stock
sports	20	TSN	400	400	CFL Football		CFL Football BC Lions at Edmonton Eskimos. (HDTV) (Live)						WTA Tennis
	23	net	408	418	(6) MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Minnesota Twins.				Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	47	SPEED	417	406	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked (N)	Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out
	94	SCORE	410	403	(6) To Be Announced			Score Tonight	The Spin With Steve Kouleas.		Score Update		Score Update
family	9	EDACC	267	351	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Stargate SG-1		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Grey's Anatomy		Help TV
	14	YTV	552	543	Drake & Josh	H2O, Just Add	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553	546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555	545	6teen	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	*Teenage Mutnt*
	45	FAM	557	541	Zoey 101	Life Derek	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
cable variety	-	TVA	121	714	TVA 18 heures	Sucré-salé	*Boeing Boeing* ★★ (1965, Comédie) Tony Curtis, Jerry Lewis.				Héros "Inattendus" (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575	583	Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.
	25	A&E	615	520	The First 48 Cabdriver.		The First 48		Crime 360 (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48
	26	MMM	571	581	Canadian Idol	Uncovered	Celebracadabra		Canadian Idol		Canadian Idol	Uncovered	Celebraca
	29	FOOD	603	561	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Iron Chef America		Unwrapped
	31	SHOW	617	522	Trailer Park	Billable Hours	ReGenesis "Lethargica"		Intelligence		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	Secret Diary
	32	DISC	520	505	(6) Perfect Predators (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Perfect Predators Sharks.		
	33	SLICE	601	562	Last 10	Bulging Brides	The Biggest Loser		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser
	34	W	602	567	Shopping Bags	House	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House
	35	TLC	521	560	American Chopper		Miami Ink (HDTV)		American Chopper		Miami Ink (HDTV)		Overhaulin'
	36	BRAVO	620	523	*Impromptu* ★★★ (1991, Comedy-Drama) Judy Davis.				Law & Order		Without a Trace		Entourage
	38	SPIKE	628	584	TNA IMPACT! (N)				UFC Unleashed		MANswers	Factory (HDTV)	Wild World
	40	HIST	522	506	Exploring Hitler's Mountain		NCIS "Under Covers"		Crime Stories		Servants of Evil: Waffen SS		Hitlers
	41	COM	626	547	Laughs	Comics!	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	Reality Bites
	43	SPACE	627	528	The Triangle "Part Three" (Part 3 of 3)				Stargate SG-1 "Chimera"		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Ent.
	44	WPCH	294	650	MLB Baseball		Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Frasier	*Hardball* ★ (2001, Drama) Keanu Reeves.		
	46	OLN	411	457	Mark Williams' Big Bangs		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Everest: Man
	48	TROP	619	525	Tube Tales	Vanity Insanity	Inside Hollywood (DVS)		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	50	STAR	621	527	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk	TMZ	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		Hollywood
	52	HGTV	600	564	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Junk Brothers	The Big Flip	Holmes on Homes		Restaurant Makeover		The Fix
	65	TLN	700	800	(6) Movie		The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Paid Program	Latin Lover
	92	APTN	269	350	First Talk	News (N)	Overseas Leg.	From the Spirit	Canadian Geographic		Front Runner		The Mix
	93	VISION	261	394	*The Terry Fox Story* ★★ (1983, Docudrama) Eric Fryer.				Emily of New Moon		*The Terry Fox Story* ★★ (1983, Docudrama)		
	100	MTV	581	566	Living on Edge	Living on Edge	True Life (N)		MTV Live		Buzzin	Run's House	True Life
	101	MM	570	580	Muchmsc Ctdn	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens		Gone Wild	Punk'd	Gone Wild	Muchmsc Ctdn
	102	CPAC	512	396	Question Period		Revue Politique Headlines.		Primetime Politics		Question Period		Public Record
	103	CLT	526	507	(6) *This Matter of Marriage*		Traders		The West Wing		The District		*This Matter*
	105	TV5	145	761	(6) On n'est pas couché		Partir	Design	Journal TV5	Cinerama	Les Héros de la nature		Cité guide
	106	RDI	126	730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal

critics'corner

Intelligence

Spalding (Klea Scott) attempts to sneak into Reardon's (Ian Tracey) criminal operation by placing an undercover agent in his strip club in this episode. Reardon is stuck with damage control — not because of the agent, but because of his brother (Bernie Coulson), who foolishly ordered the death of a snitch. 11 AM on SHOW

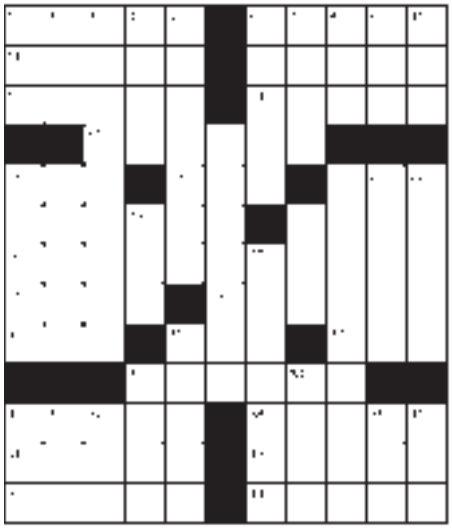
Perfect Predators

How did sharks get to be such amazing hunters? Years of practice. This special follows an assortment of shark species to learn more about their evolution, behavior and relationships. It also looks at the ways in which sharks have inspired inventions to benefit humans — such as ship hulls that shed barnacles and medical equipment that resists bacteria the way a shark's skin does. 6 PM on DISC

IntelleVision
Rick McGinnis
... will return

A royal premiere
The next installment in the Harry Potter film franchise has been chosen as a feature at this year's Royal Film Performance. Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince will have its European premiere in November in front of a member of the U.K. royal family. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Roof part
2 Jargon ending
3 Handspring's kin
4 Locks
5 Bakery treats
6 Spicy dish
7 Painter Holbein
8 Application info
9 Baby boxer
10 Harden
16 Sardonic sort
17 "Lost" character
18 Lucy's pal
20 Ignore convention
21 "Superman" star
22 Little hooter
24 Twisty fish
25 Greek X
27 Yule rings
31 Some die rolls
33 Reddish brown
34 Plunge
35 Rick's pianist
36 — nutshell
37 Squeak stopper
39 Historic time
40 Fast flier

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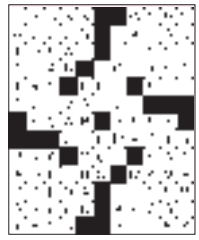
Crossword across

1 Actress Anne
6 Cowboy wear
11 Jacob's father
12 Dutch capital, with "The"
13 Hazard
14 Bumbling
15 Fishes with a net
17 Detective Archer
19 Jr.'s son
20 To's counterpart
23 Everyone else
25 Ship staff
26 Dairy buy
28 Boat part
29 Show sorrow
30 Angled pipe
31 Take to court
32 Dripping
33 Saudi Arabia's capital
35 Plains group
38 Kilmer classic
41 Biscotti flavor
42 Gardeners, at times
43 Soda fountain orders
44 Paint-spilling sound

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A genius engages you in a discussion. Someone in crisis makes flippant remarks. Weird coincidences are due to drastic changes.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A stagnant situation appears to be shifting. Simply paying attention to a problem will fix it. A mediator will make changes in policy.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A man presents a bizarre challenge. You must employ self-imposed restrictions. Get what you need to proceed.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Someone's nerves are near the breaking point. Temporary barriers will dissolve. A sensual man makes advances toward a woman.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
An enemy wants to burn bridges. Arguments about self-indulgence will disgust you. Phone calls are more effective after lunch.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Remain calm if lousy luck hits. Something radically changes your opinion. Somebody is stuck repeating old patterns.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
An unapproachable guy wants attention. Love shakes your soul to its foundation. A stranger knocks on the door.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Delete all secret information from your mind. Someone will compliment you. Tone down somebody's hostile approach.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Take care to explain yourself thoroughly. Clouds will show their silver linings. Don't get exasperated while traveling.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A playmate wants you to take charge. Confusion may disrupt someone's carefully laid plans. A visitor isn't as bad as feared.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
People praise your ability to get along with others. Believe in yourself and you will make it. A special situation gets on your nerves.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Compliment a love-struck girl on her appearance. Insist on carrying out a revolting obligation. Construction will slow travelers.

This day in history

JULY 31, 781: The oldest recorded eruption of Mt. Fuji (Traditional Japanese date: July 6, 781).
JULY 31, 1741: Charles Albert of Bavaria invades Upper Austria and Bohemia
JULY 31, 1790: First U.S. patent is issued; granted to inventor Samuel Hopkins for a potash process.
JULY 31, 1951: Japan Airlines is established.
JULY 31, 1976: Viking program: Viking 1 - NASA releases the famous Face on Mars photo.
JULY 31, 1981: 42-day strike of Major League Baseball ends in the United States.
JULY 31, 2006: Fidel Castro hands over power temporarily to brother Raúl Castro. This leads to a celebration in Little Havana.

Sudoku

					7		8	
2	5				1	3		
	1		4			2		
	9			2	6		1	
6								8
	4		5	7			9	
		5			9		3	
		9	1				5	7
	8		6					

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

1	6	8	5	7	9	2	4	3
5	2	9	1	4	3	6	8	7
3	7	4	6	2	8	1	5	9
4	3	6	9	5	2	8	7	1
7	8	2	3	1	6	4	9	5
9	1	5	4	8	7	3	2	6
2	9	1	8	3	5	7	6	4
8	5	3	7	6	4	9	1	2
6	4	7	2	9	1	5	3	8

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25 . . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising
more games metronews.ca

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metronews.ca
metro
Do it daily.

Edmonton weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny. 20°	Clear. Low 8°	Partly cloudy. 22°/ 9°	Sunny. 21°/ 12°	Variable. 20°/ 11°

Temperature Normals
High: 23.5°
Low: 10.8°

Records
High: 31.1°/1922
Low: 3.3°/1927

Sunrise: 5:48 a.m.
Sunset: 9:31 p.m.
Moonrise: 4:26 a.m.
Moonset: 9:23 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data

Smith to reprise futuristic role

Will Smith, left, is to revive his role in the futuristic action movie I Am Legend for a prequel. Director Francis Lawrence has confirmed he is working on a followup to the hit 2007 film. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson and Armstrong call it quits

BREAK-UP Kate Hudson and Lance Armstrong called it quits this weekend after a three-month romance, us-magazine.com reports.

"There was no drama or ugliness – they just decided to end things," a source close to the couple tells Us. "There is no hatred, just sadness."

The pair quickly became inseparable with sightings of them in Austin, Tex., New York and Los Angeles – though both dodged questions about their relationship.

In the short time they were together, the 29-year-old actress was seen with the 36-year-old cyclist at many of his races and events, including his three-day Lance Armstrong Livestrong Summit in Columbus, Ohio, this past weekend.

It was at the conference that Hudson and Armstrong decided to go their separate ways, a source tells Us.

Each had introduced the other to family. Hudson's mom Goldie Hawn gave what seemed to be her approval at a July 1 lunch at The Ivy at the Shore. Also, Hudson's four-year-old son Ryder went to a Father's Day brunch with Armstrong — and dad Chris Robinson — in June.

A rep for Armstrong had no comment while a rep for Hudson could not be reached.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Doherty not over Moss

BREAK-UP Pete Doherty is not over Kate Moss, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Babyshambles singer claims he has not been in a relationship since splitting from the supermodel a year ago.

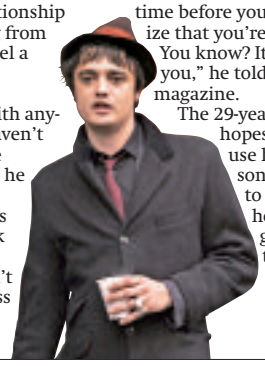
"I haven't shacked up with anyone since. I haven't shared my life with anyone," he said.

Doherty says his heartbreak has been so great, he hasn't spoken to Moss uty since they went their separate ways.

" When you split up with someone, someone that you're seriously in love with, it takes a lot of time before you even realize that you're upset. You know? It just hits you," he told Loaded magazine.

The 29-year-old hopes he can use his songwriting to finally help him get over the split.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Swift denies dating Jonas

RUMOUR They'd sure make a right pretty couple, but Taylor Swift says she's not dating fellow singer Joe Jonas of the Jonas Brothers, People.com reports. "We're all friends," she said.

Besides, the 18-year-old has other pressing teenage concerns — namely, graduating from high school.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dickinson denies flashing pilot on NetJets flight

NUDITY Janice Dickinson sure knows how to distract a pilot, PageSix.com reports.

The so-called original supermodel was on a recent private NetJets flight from Los Angeles to New York when she strolled into the cockpit and flashed the pilot, said a source.

She just went in and did a little shimmy and walked out," said the source. Dickinson tells us through her rep that she'd "admit it if I did it," but claims she didn't.

A NetJets rep declined to comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aniston's trial marriage

RELATIONSHIP Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer are planning a "trial marriage," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple, who have been dating for three months, are said to be keen to test the strength of their relationship, and think Mayer moving into Aniston's house is the perfect first step.

"John wants to settle down as much as Jennifer does," a source said. "What's more, he's been telling her that he thinks she is the one and she believes him."

Mayer's move into Jennifer's Beverly Hills mansion is set to happen after his tour ends in September.

The couple are also reportedly planning a family.

The source added to Britain's Grazia magazine: "John is the first guy since Brad who has talked seriously about having children and Jennifer is very excited about it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Yes! Another stage in the Tour de Lance is complete, and our courageous cancer-eating cyclist still wears the yellow jersey. I'm definitely ordering my beige "DUMPSTRONG" bracelet. My old yellow bracelet has too many cig burns on it.

Janice Dickinson is 53 years old. In model years, that's 1,006. The pilot is said to be recovering comfortably.

Not to downplay the serious nature of alcoholism, but I must disagree with Ms. Nielson. In fact, she reached rock bottom 16 years ago when she married Marc Gastineau. The handful of New York Jets fans reading this who can remember the early '90s are nodding silently right now.

A Britney Spears reality show is a terrible idea. It means the next time she "forgets" to wear panties, there's bound to be far more sophisticated photographic evidence. Not a good thing, unless you're a trauma counsellor.

Kudos to "Anisyer." A trial marriage is a great idea, because it makes the transition to the inevitable trial separation so much more seamless.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Best dressed couple
Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, right, have been named 2008's Best Dressed Couple. Vanity Fair magazine praised Jolie for the way she dressed while pregnant and noted Pitt's numerous stylish red-carpet appearances. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Foxy's lawyer fires back at book lawsuit

BOOK DEAL Rapper Foxy Brown has lashed out at publishing executives after they accused her of failing to deliver an autobiography she was paid to write, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Bosses at Simon and Schuster, Inc. claim Brown, whose real name is Inga Marchand, was handed $75,000 US in 2005 to pen her memoirs in a book titled Broken Silence.

The deadline was set for February 2006, but she is said to have never completed the work.

However, Brown insists company bosses approved her request to put the project on hold while she underwent treatment for sudden hearing loss, after she was diagnosed with severe deafness in both ears in December 2005.

"With Simon & Schuster's blessings, Foxy Brown underwent extensive surgical procedures and a lengthy recovery time, fighting to restore her hearing," her attorney Laura Dilimetin tells AllHipHop.com.

The statement goes on to claim that it was at this point that "Simon & Schuster decided not to go forward with the project."

Dilimetin adds, "Many attempts were made by Foxy Brown's agents to resurrect the deal, to no avail … I find it suspect that after all of these years of silence, Simon & Schuster pick now to bring this meritless action when they were the ones to halt the project."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ne-Yo proud of positive image

MEDIA Ne-Yo has slammed the media for rewarding the bad behaviour of troubled celebrities with hoards of press coverage, rather than focusing on their talents, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 28-year-old R&B star is proud of that fact that he's managed to dodge negative press throughout his singing career — but admits he's shocked that his fellow musicians are showered with media attention resulting from arrests, affairs and drug abuse.

"Image is the most difficult thing," he said. "Back in the day, you were judged off your music, or how many hits you had or the quality of your music."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gomez denies Miley rift

RUMOUR When it comes to Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez tells Extra, "there's nothing there to talk about," usmagazine.com reports.

Rumours of a rift swirled last week after an old YouTube clip of Cyrus, 15, mocking Gomez, 16, hit the blogs. It surfaced the same week it was reported that Gomez was dating Cyrus' ex Nick Jonas. Cyrus later apologized.

But Gomez says the clip "is just the media wanting something to talk about and wanting us to fight. Everywhere you go, you're hearing things that are untrue. You just got to learn that if I don't say it, physically out of my mouth on camera, it's not true."

To prove she has no ill will, Gomez says she picked up "Miley's new CD. I really like her CD."

Gomez says she is thankful for fan support.

"It's overwhelming … to know there are hundreds of kids out there that look up to me," she says. "I know that's a big responsibility. I am also very confident to say that it is wonderful and I'll do my best that I can do to be the best role model I can be."

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Jamie Lynn headed to the altar

WEDDING Jamie Lynn Spears is marrying fiance Casey Aldridge in the autumn, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Zoey 101 actress, who recently gave birth to the couple's first child Maddie, is busy planning her nuptials and intends to get married at her home in Mississippi.

"She loves everything about the area where she lives," a friend of the 17-year-old said. "She's not going to get married in some luxury resort in the Caribbean or a hotel in Beverley Hills. Her own back yard with just the people who matter most is more Jamie Lynn's style."

Big sister Britney is set to be Jamie Lynn's maid of honour, while Casey's sister Ashlee is expected to be a bridesmaid.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Nielsen's drinking was out of control

RECOVERING Former actress Brigitte Nielsen was so hooked on alcohol she heard voices in her head telling her to drink more, imdb.com reports. Nielsen checked into rehab a year ago as her drinking spiralled out of control.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Brit to film new reality TV series

PEOPLE Britney Spears is rumoured to be filming a new reality TV show, femalefirsts.co.uk reports. The pop star has reportedly ordered her entourage to carry professional video cameras with them at all times to capture her antics on film.

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